

MINUTES

Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority

July 13, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. James Donelon, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (LATIFPA) to order at 2:10 p.m. and roll was called. A quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Commissioner J. Robert Wooley by proxy (Mr. Jim Donelon)
Allen Carpenter
Mr. Joseph Dupuis, Sr.
Mr. Rodley Henry
Mr. Larry Hinton
Treasurer John Kennedy by proxy (Mr. Jason Stagg)
Mr. Richard Soileau
Clement Story, Esq.

Staff Members Present

Ms. Denise Cassano
Mr. Kevin Smith
Chris Fontenot, Esq.
Ms. Chalace Crow
Ms. Becky Green

Members Absent

Mr. Mike Boydston Lieutenant
Representative Karen Carter
Senator James David Cain

Staff Members Absent

A motion was made by Mr. Richard Soileau to adopt the Minutes of the April 6, 2005 LATIFPA board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Larry Hinton. There was no discussion and the minutes as drafted were adopted unanimously.

Mr. Chris Fontenot, Legal Counsel for the LATIFPA, explained the proposed change by the staff to the LATIFPA Bylaws that previously read "Proxies will be authorized and must be submitted in writing, to the Chairperson, prior to the meeting." Mr. Hinton made a motion to adopt the language change to the Bylaws in Article VIII, Section 4, to now read "Proxies for the elected officials serving on the Authority's Board of Directors will be authorized and must be submitted in writing, to the Chairperson, prior to the meeting." The motion was seconded by Mr. Soileau. There was no discussion and the motion was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Clement Story to amend Article II, Section 1, of the LATIFPA Bylaws that previously read “The purpose of this public agency is to combat motor vehicle insurance fraud, including fraud by theft and other criminal acts” to read “The purpose of this public agency is to combat motor vehicle fraud and any violations of the insurance laws and criminal laws of the State of Louisiana as it relates to motor vehicle insurance.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Joseph Dupuis. After discussion, Mr. Soileau made a substitute motion to defer action on Mr. Story’s original motion until the next meeting of the Authority’s board so as to allow Mr. Fontenot the proper time to research the legalities of the motion and report to the board on the matter. Mr. Hinton seconded the motion. There was no objection. The original motion was deferred and the substitute motion was adopted.

Mr. Ronald Canady, Senior Special Agent, Area 4 Operations, National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), gave a presentation focusing on the use of bait cars in Louisiana and other states. He presented information on the public awareness programs being implemented in other states, specifically the Help Eliminate Auto Theft (HEAT) Program, Watch Your Car Program and the Combat Auto Theft (CAT) Program.

Mr. Canady announced after his presentation that the NICB had a bait car on site available for viewing and/or inspection after the board meeting.

Ms. Denise Cassano gave a report on the fundraising efforts of the Authority, stating that a total of \$45,000 had been received, to date, and has been deposited into the Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority Fund.

Ms. Cassano stated that the total LATIFPA budget for fiscal year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 is \$248,692.00. Mr. Kevin Smith reviewed the projected itemized budget with the board members. Mr. Smith emphasized that the LATIFPA budget focuses on funding areas of law enforcement, prosecution, conviction, public awareness, prevention and education.

Ms. Cassano recommended to the board the adoption of a proposed resolution, subject to compliance with Article 7, Section 14, of the Louisiana Constitution regarding non-gratuitous transfers of state property to public or private entities, together with the public bid laws found in LSA-R.S. 38:2211, authorizing the Authority to spend approximately \$34,400 from the Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority Fund to equip two bait cars. Lieutenant Carpenter made a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clement Story. Discussion followed. The motion was amended to spend \$13,336 to equip four bait cars. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Story made a motion to give the LATIFPA Board of Directors the authority to designate the placement of any bait cars. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. Discussion favored another meeting within 90 days to decide on bait car placement. The motion was unanimously adopted.

A motion was made by Lieutenant Carpenter to adopt the projected itemized budget, presented by the staff of the Authority, with the understanding that no monies are to be expended without the consent of the board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hinton. There was no discussion and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Ms. Cassano reported on the LATIFPA strategic plan, policies and procedures for making grant applications and asked the board to submit any comments on the submitted documents outlining the plan, policies and procedures.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Donelon announced that there were various newspaper articles regarding car theft and fraudulent activities in the board members packets for their review.

Lieutenant Carpenter introduced two members from the Louisiana State Police in attendance who work on auto theft related issues. He also invited the LATIFPA staff to attend a meeting on August 18, 2005 where a member of the State Farm office in Bloomington, Illinois will be available and will be speaking on the various ways in which cars are broken into as well as the ways that theft deterrent systems are being defeated by auto thieves.

Ms. Cassano made an announcement about the availability of the bait car on site.

Ms. Cassano announced that the department's Web site now has a link to information regarding the Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority.

Mr. Smith announced that LATIFPA will be represented at the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators Conference in New Orleans, July 31, 2005 through August 5, 2005.

Ms. Cassano announced that the next meeting of the LATIFPA board will be either the second, third or fourth Wednesday in October.

Mr. Hinton moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Lieutenant Carpenter. The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.